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Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00
COME-00 AGRE-00 OIC-02 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 SP-02 /085 W
----------037378 180647Z /20
R 171802Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4289
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY BERN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
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USEEC AND EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, ICO, EPAP
SUBJECT: COFFEE -- MEETING OF ICO EXECUTIVE BOARD, MARCH

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16, 1978

1. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION (ICO) MET MARCH 16 TO CONSIDER A LARGELY ROUTINE AGENDA. ALTHOUGH ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR TWO DAYS, THE CHAIRMAN DECIDED TO RESTRICT THE MEETING TO ONE DAY ONLY AND, BECAUSE OF PRESSURE OF TIME, TWO ITEMS (INCLUDING RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO THE PRESS) WERE DEFERRED TO THE NEXT MEETING.

2. MAJOR ITEMS COVERED INCLUDED:-
A) STUDY GROUP ON ARTICLE 51 (STOCKING):
THIS WAS A RELATIVELY BLAND SUMMATION PREPARED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE STUDY GROUP LAST JANUARY. THE STUDY WAS NOTED WITH LITTLE DEBATE. US REP NOTED THAT THE PAPER DID NOT COVER ALL POSSIBLE STOCK COMBINATIONS DISCUSSED BY THE STUDY GROUP BUT NEITHER DID IT CLOSE OFF OPTIONS. THEREFORE PAPER SEEMED TO BE A REASONABLY GOOD STATUS REPORT.
B) WORKING GROUP ON ARTICLE 33(3):
THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CIRCULATED A REPORT OF THE WORKIN GROUP ON PRICE TRIGGERS THE MORNING OF THE MEETING. THIS WAS CIRCULATED AS A WORKING PAPER, WP BOARD NO. 195.
THE BOARD WAS ASKED TO NOTE THIS PAPER SO THAT IT COULD BE GIVEN BROADER CIRCULATION AS AN EB DOCUMENT. THIS TOO WAS INTRODUCED AS ONLY A STATUS REPORT. US DEL
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STRONGLY QUESTIONED PROPRIETY OF BOARD EVEN NOTING A PAPER WITHOUT ADEQUATE TIME FOR STUDYING. HE SUPPORTED A SWISS PROPOSAL THAT PAPER BE CIRCULATED ONLY AS A CHAIRMAN'S REPORT BUT THIS DID NOT CARRY. FRG REPRESEN-TATIVE (RORIG) UNDERCUT SWISS/U.S. EFFORTS BY ENTERING INTO LENGTHY DISCUSSION ON A NUMBER OF POINTS IN THE REPORT (WHICH HE READ OVER LUNCH). EXECUTIVE BOARD FINALLY "NOTED" THE REPORT WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WOULD UNDERTAKE SOME REDRAFTING AND WOULD INVITE SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED BY MARCH 31ST FOR HIS GUIDANCE IN REDRAFTING. U.S. AND SWISS DELS RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO THIS PROCEDURE. U.S. REP REMINDED THE CHAIRMAN THAT IN AGREEING TO "NOTING" THE DOCUMENT, U.S. IN NO SENSE HAD PASSED JUDGEMENT ON ITS CONTENT.(OF COURSE, THE PROCESS OF "NOTING" NEVER IMPLIES A COMMITMENT. THIS DOCUMENT SEEMS INOCCUOUS ALTHOUGH NOT PARTICULARLY WELL BALANCED IN REFLECTING CONSUMER VIEWS; THE REAL ISSUE, HOWEVER, IS THE TARDI-NESS OF ITS SUBMISSION TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD).
C) STUDY ON SUPPLY AND DEMAND:
WORKING PAPER NO. 182, THE MONOGRAPH ON TANZANIA, ALTHOUGH IN EVERYONE'S HANDS, WAS NOT OFFICIALLY SUB-

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MITTED TO THE BOARD SINCE TANZANIA HAD INFORMED THE
ORGANIZATION IT WISHED TO COMMENT ON CERTAIN PARTS OF IT
THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANNOUNCED THAT MONOGRAPHS FOR
IVORY COAST, GUATEMALA, CAMEROON, MEXICO, COLOMBIA AND
BRAZIL WOULD FOLLOW WITH THE FIRST THREE PROBABLY CIR-
CULATED BY MID-APRIL. U.S. REP ONCE AGAIN STRESSED
IMPORTANCE U.S. ATTACHED TO EARLY PUBLICATION.
D) SYSTEM OF CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN:
IN WORKING PAPER NO. 194, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SURFACE
AN IDEA FOR HELPING TO TRACE SPLIT SHIPMENTS. THIS
WOULD BE OF PARTICULAR RELEVANCE TO THE EEC. THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S PROPOSAL WAS THAT THE COOPERATION
OF TRADERS BE SOUGHT IN PROVIDING PHOTOCOPIES OR IMPORT
RETURNS OF THE RELEVANT CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN TO EACH
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BUYER OF A SUB-LOT WHEN PARCELS ARE SPLIT. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SAID HE WOULD DRAFT AN ED BEARING IN MIND THE BOARD'S COMMENTS.
E) PROGRAM OF WORK:
A GREAT DEAL OF HEAT AND LITTLE LIGHT WAS GENERATED OVER AN HOUR-LONG EFFORT TO FIT THE ORGANIZATION'S MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS IN WITH THE PERSONAL SCHEDULES OF EEC AND THE KENYAN DELEGATE. IT WAS FINALLY AGREED THAT THE APRIL 3-12 DATES WOULD BE MAINTAINED WHILE THE RESERVATIONS FOR APRIL 24-28 AND MAY 25 AND 26 WOULD BE CANCELLED. NO COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE CALLED FOR MAY. HOWEVER, MAY 8, 9 AND 10 WILL BE RESERVED FOR A POSSIBLE MEETING OF THE BOARD. THE POSSIBILIT OF CONVOKING A COUNCIL MEETING FOR JUNE WAS LEFT IN ABEYANCE PENDING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CHAIRMAN.

3. AS FINAL ORDER OF BUSINESS, U.S. REP REQUESTED FLOOR TO COMMENT BRIEFLY ON PRESS REPORTS OF THE MEETING OF LATIN AMERICAN OTHER MILDS IN SAN SALVADOR. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE WIRES SERVICES HAD CARRIED A NUMBER OF REPORTS DESCRIBING THIS MEETING AS REACHING AGREEMENT TO SUSPEND SALES TO "STOP A FALL IN INTERNATIONAL PRICES". U.S. REP REMARKED THAT PERHAPS THIS INTERVENTION SHOULD HAVE BEEN MADE UNDER THE AGENDA ITEM CONCERNING ARTICLE 33(3) SINCE ANY EFFORT TO MANIPULATE PRICES WAS RELEVANT TO THAT ARTICLE. U.S. REP CONCLUDED BY REITERATING THE BELIEF THAT IT WAS TIME TO

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GET COFFEE "BACK INTO THE CUPS".

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Message Attributes

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